**Air India services from Calcutta**

843. SHRI DEBENDRA NATH BARMAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is reluctant to originate its services or to touch at Calcutta; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**News item regarding country's telephone system**

844. SHRI M. A. BABY:
DR. R. K. PODDAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item in the "Amrit Bazar Patrika" dated the 16th October, 1986 on the telephone system of the country;

(b) if so, how far the news item is correct; and

(c) if so, what are the efforts being made to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some incidents and certain statements mentioned in the news item are partially true but are very much exaggerated.

(c) Development plans are being drawn up and implemented through 5 Year Plans. Programmes for the 7th Five Year Plan have been drawn and the main features are:

(i) To increase production capacity of telecom equipment.

(ii) Introduction of electronic digital exchanges.

(iii) Other various measures such as computerisation of various services, induction of PCM and Optical Fibre system and Digital Microwave system in the junction network, itemised billing, paperless trunk working etc. are being introduced, to improve the quality of service.

A "Mission Better Communication" has been launched to improve the telecommunication system in India.

**Eklashi — Balur Ghat Railway line**

845. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to:

(a) what is the latest position of Eklashi to Balur Ghat Railway line in West Bengal; and

(b) the allotment of funds made so far and the details of the progress made till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The expected expenditure for Eklakhi-Balurghat section upto March, 1987 is Rs. 3.60 crores. The progress till January, 1987 is 3%.

**Foreign airlines to touch at Calcutta**

846. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:
SHRI DEBENDRA NATH BARMAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have urged the foreign airlines to touch at Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the names of those Airline and reaction of those Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Calcutta has been offered in the recent past to the airlines of Netherlands, Poland, Bulgaria, Spain, Austria, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Singapore, UAE and Jordan. Out of these, airlines of Bulgaria, Poland, Singapore Yugoslavia, UAE and Jordan have accepted the offer to operate to Calcutta.

**Air India flight 428 to touch Calcutta**

847. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to touch Calcutta by Air India flight 428 which has been started recently between Delhi and Singapore;

(b) if so, when and the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The existing traffic potential from Calcutta to Singapore is inadequate for sustaining commercially feasible direct service or including Calcutta as an intermediate point on Delhi-Singapore services.

**Double rail line from Saheb Gunj to New Farakka**

848. SHRI MUSTAFA BIN QUASEM:
SHRI DEBENDRA NATH BARMAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for a double line from Saheb Gunj to New Farakka via Malda Town in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Doubling of rail line from Sahebganj Link Cabin to Malda Town via New Farakka is an approved work.

(b) It was approved in 86-87 Budget at an anticipated cost of Rs. 29.81 crores. Outlay for 87-88 is Rs. 5.53 lakhs for preliminary works like soil investigation, finalisation of plans etc.

(c) Does not arise.

**Cancellation of visit of school boy cricketers to U.K.**

849. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a team of the School-boy Cricketers were deprived of their scheduled visit to J.K.;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what remedial action Government have taken on this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No such proposal was received by Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.